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tion to the wants of those for whom it was intended. Simple and unpretending in form, it is precisely what its title indicates, and, with its wealth of practical wisdom and pleasant anecdote, it can scarcely fail to exercise a healthful influence on every reader. Among the topics of which it treats are "Daughters and Sisters," "Relations with the Poor and Friendless," "Relations with Servants," "Travelling," "Marriage," "Days of Mourning," and "Moral Courage"; and there are in all seventeen chapters or addresses.

15. — *Broadcast*. By NEHEMIAH ADAMS, D. D. Boston: Ticknor and Fields. 1863. 16mo. pp. 210.

THIS is a book of religious aphorisms, jotted down by the author to be used in the composition of sermons; and they are what we should expect to find them, as drawn from the repertory of one of our best preachers. It is not the writers of pithy aphorisms that are the most capable of continuous and compact discourse. Faced bricks look better in a house than they do as they are handled one by one; and the graceful members of a comely rhetorical edifice need to be seen in their proper places to be seen to the best advantage. These detached *morceaux* from Dr. Adams's note-book are remarkable for the fine choice of words and shaping of sentences, and often admirable as expositions of weighty sayings of holy writ, or of momentous thoughts on subjects of infinite magnitude; but they have just that lack of completeness and rotundity which we should hope to find in brief passages from the sermons for which they were destined. Of these last the author cannot print more than the religious public will receive with the profound gratitude with which those already issued have been welcomed.

16. — *The Spiritual Point of View; or, The Glass Reversed. An Answer to Bishop Colenso*. By M. MAHAN, D. D., St. Mark's-in-the-Bowery Professor of Ecclesiastical History in the General Theological Seminary. New York: D. Appleton & Co. 1863. 12mo. pp. 114.

As we stated in our last number, Bishop Colenso's argument against the authenticity of the Pentateuch and Joshua turns mainly on their unhistorical character, as tried by the modern standard of historical composition, and especially on their lack of numerical coherency and accuracy. Dr. Mahan shows that the very characteristics on which the authenticity of these books is disputed are marks of their genuine-

ness and substantial truth, being common to them with all the surviving historical literature of a remote antiquity. He is particularly happy in establishing a close parallelism in these respects between the sacred writers and Herodotus, who sometimes uses round numbers seemingly at haphazard, though he had been a diligent inquirer after historical truth, and plumed himself on his accuracy. If it be maintained that the very words of the Hebrew Scriptures were divinely dictated, of course no such analogy as this can shield them from assault; but their having the faults and defects common to all early essays at historical writing by no means impairs their claim to be regarded as trustworthy records of Divine revelation.

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17. — *Christian Self-Culture; or Counsels for the Beginning and Progress of a Christian Life.* By LEONARD BACON, Pastor of the First Church in New Haven. Boston: American Tract Society. 1862. 16mo. pp. 255.

WE rejoice to avail ourselves of a new opportunity of bearing testimony to the eminent services rendered to religion and humanity by the American Tract Society at Boston. Our quarterly list has chronicled the names of some of its publications, but of course could convey no adequate idea of their worth. Its issues are always timely. Since the outbreking of the present rebellion, it has busied itself largely on literature for the army, including abridged biographies of such men as Hodson and Havelock, collections of hymns, tunes, and prayers for worship in the camp, several editions of Cromwell's Soldier's Bible, religious appeals adapted to the exigencies of military life, and directions for the preservation of health, the treatment of wounds, and the care of the sick. At the same time it has sent forth hardly less than its usual variety of juvenile stories, and of books suited to the needs of divers classes of readers.

The work named at the head of this notice seems to us to merit emphatic commendation. Without departing from the standard of strict orthodoxy as to the Divine agency in the religious life, Dr. Bacon discusses the necessity and the methods of man's agency in the culture of the Christian character, with the wisdom which marks the experienced guide in the way of salvation, with entire freedom from technical phraseology and limiting dogmas, and with a tender earnestness which must give his words entrance and power wherever the book shall fall into the hands of one who sincerely desires to educate himself for heaven.